

new horizons

The magazine of the National FFA Organization

January/February 2001

tickets please!

AGRICULTURAL TOURISM
MAKES A SPLASH

dreams of gold

THREE FORMER FFA MEMBERS
CLAIM GOLD MEDALS IN SYDNEY

2000 convention

TRUE STORIES
FROM LOUISVILLE

Karla Butters (left) and Pam Dornier visit with a mischievous cow in a simulated milking parlor at "The Farm," a new permanent exhibit at the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry

"THERE ARE ONLY TWO
EMOTIONS
THAT BELONG ON THE SADDLE;
ONE IS A SENSE OF
HUMOR
AND THE OTHER IS PATIENCE."

*- John Lyons
America's Most Trained Horseman*



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Editorial Office

FFA New Horizons P.O. Box 63969
 Indianapolis, IN 46266-0969
 phone: 317/502-4222
 e-mail: ddoerflert@ffa.org

Advertising Office

Glenn G. Sims national sales representative
 FFA New Horizons
 5100 W31244 Hwy LO
 Mukwonago, WI 53148-9301
 phone: 262/343-9346
 fax: 262/343-7594
 e-mail: gsim@gfarmuro.rrs.com

FFA New Horizons (ISSN 1069-806X), is prepared and published bi-monthly by Farm Progress Companies Inc., or behalf of the National FFA Organization, 6000 FFA Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46266, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education as a service to state and local agricultural education agencies. Postmaster: postage rates is paid at Indianapolis, IN and at additional mail offices.

POSTMASTER: Address all correspondence to: FFA New Horizons, Attn: Glenn Gordon P.O. Box 63969, Indianapolis, IN 46266-0969.

SUBSCRIPTION: Non-FFA member rate: \$5 for one year in U.S. and possessions.

FFA member rate: \$1.75 for one year (paid with dues). Single copy: \$1.50, or \$7.50 each for five or more.

Postage and handling charges extra.
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Three former FFA members went to Australia last summer to compete in the summer Olympics. They came back with gold medals and messages to share with you.



16 Faces of the 73rd FFA Convention

Every FFA member who attended the 2000 National FFA Convention came home with a different story to tell. *FFA New Horizons* has captured a few of those stories.

departments

FFA Motto

Learning to do, doing to learn,
 earning to live, living to serve.

FFA Mission Statement

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

Agricultural Education Mission

Agricultural Education prepares students for successful careers and a lifetime of informed choices in the global agriculture, food, fiber and natural resources systems.

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 out National
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www.ffa.org

one on one with

Trent McKnight

How does it feel to be national FFA president? It's exciting, but a lot of responsibility at the same time. I probably didn't get here the way most people would think. I never progressed up the ranks like many have in the past. I was never district, area or state FFA president. But I have learned that if you continue to work hard and remain strong in your faith, anything is possible. I know it's going to be a great year, especially with the five capable people I will be working with.

Have you ever had a chance to meet Governor George W. Bush? If so, what can you tell us about him?

Yes! He is an awesome person and cares a lot about others. He is extremely charismatic and very personable. Each year he takes time from his schedule to meet with the Texas state FFA officers, and two years ago he spoke at the Texas state FFA convention. He is a strong advocate of agriculture and realizes the importance of agricultural education.

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I am from a small West Texas town with a population of 1,036. Growing up in a rural area gave me the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of activities ranging from band to FFA to sports. I enjoy hunting, working cattle and just being with friends and family.

What's your dream job? I hope to move home to Throckmorton, Texas, and continue the family tradition of ranching and rural banking. My great-great grandfather settled in Throckmorton 125 years ago at the end of the Civil War. He acquired land and started a ranch that has been in our family ever since.

What's the best piece of advice you've ever received? Everyone that helped me prepare for my year as a national officer said if you want to be successful in life you must know who you are, know what your priorities are and know what it is you value. When you answer these three questions, you will be on your way to a happy life.

Do you have any goals for the coming year?

As an officer team we are pumped about this coming year. We want to inspire every member to go spread the good word about the FFA. In the past, people have labeled us the "best kept secret in America." It is time we put an end to the "secret" part and let everyone know what the FFA is and the positive values we stand for. ★

VITALS

Hometown: Throckmorton, Texas

Age: 21

Chapter: Throckmorton FFA

Advisor: Mike Martinson

SAE: Beef and sheep production

Education: Junior at Oklahoma State University

Major: Agricultural economics

Favorite band: Creed

Last good book I read:

Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom

Favorite food: Steak

Best movie I've seen lately: "Gladiator"

Hobby: Playing the saxophone

TIMELINE

Age

- 14** • attended my first state FFA convention
- attended my first national FFA convention
- 15** • participated in Washington Leadership Conference
- 16** • named Texas star chapter farmer
- 17** • elected Texas area IV officer
- 18** • placed tenth at state chapter conducting (parliamentary procedure)
- won grand champion lamb at San Antonio and Houston livestock shows
- elected state vice president
- 20** • earned American FFA Degree
- 21** • elected national FFA president



Pulling His Weight at the Farm Just Got a Whole Lot Easier



Jimmy Schueller:

**Winner of the John Deere Credit
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At the age of seventeen, FFA member Jimmy Schueller already has his feet firmly planted in the ag business. Working a successful corn, bean, and alfalfa operation in Scales Mound, Illinois, with his two brothers is hard work, but it's a living. And it's what he lives for.

At John Deere Credit, we believe in Jimmy, and all young people like him across the nation keeping the tradition of agriculture alive. And, we understand everyone needs a little help getting started. That's why we're proud to hand him the keys to a classic—a beautifully restored John Deere 4020 Tractor that will pull its weight around Jimmy's farm for years to come.

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tickets, please!

Agricultural tourism—also called agri-tourism—is a growing trend in the U.S.
Find out why it's happening and how you can get involved

by Erich Gaukel



Eight years ago, Darren Schmall, a grape grower from Madera, California, decided to try his hand at pizza farming. That's right—pizza farming. So, he created a circular half-acre farm divided into eight sections, or "slices." In them, Schmall grows all the ingredients needed to make—you guessed it—a pizza. Wheat (for the crust), green peppers, dairy cows (for cheese), tomatoes (for the sauce) and onions—it's all there.

Schmall, who still grows grapes as his core business, opened the pizza farm as a tourist attraction that he hoped would supplement his income. With thousands of local school kids, families and tour groups flocking to the farm each year, Schmall is one of a growing number of farmers nation-

Links from this story

The Pizza Farm: www.pizzafarm.org

Chicago Museum of Science and Industry:
www.msichicago.org

Minnesota Zoo's Family Farm:
www.mnzoo.com/partners/mnzoofarm.html

Country Heritage Community:
www.silosandsmokestacks.org/chc/

Walt Disney World: www.disney.com

Pam Swihart and Attalee Hardy, FFA members from Michigan State University, get a firsthand look at an agricultural exhibit at the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry. Photo by Shane Morgan.

wide who are making money by opening their farms to people who are curious about country life and where their food actually comes from.

Agriculture's big picture

Peter Jorgensen, project director for Country Heritage Community, an agricultural tourism organization that covers most of northeast Iowa, is currently developing package tours that will, beginning in the next two years, take tourists through all phases of the region's agricultural heritage. Visitors will experience everything from a high-tech John Deere factory to a farm that still uses Belgian horses.

His organization's goal is to generate economic wealth in the region by getting people out to learn the story of agriculture. Field of Dreams, the farm and baseball diamond used in the Kevin Costner movie of the same name, is located in the region. So the question must be asked—if they build the tours, will people come?

Jorgensen is confident they will. He, like Schmall, believes value can be placed on the story of a particular farm and on agriculture as a whole. Jorgensen is trying to sell northeast Iowa agriculture to national and international tour groups who will tour the area by charter bus. These tourists

are typically in their sixties or older. Jorgensen says these people are not interested in sightseeing. Why? They've already seen much of America and beyond. "They want to engage with people," Jorgensen says. "They want to know what it's like to live in this place and what it's like to milk cows twice a day."

A triple win

Gil Meyer is the director of biotechnology issues and programs at DuPont Agricultural Products in Wilmington, Delaware. Last summer, he spoke to participants in the FFA New Century Farmer program, a four-day workshop for FFA members planning on becoming production agriculturalists. As he sees it, agricultural tourism is a triple win.

The farmer, who can add a pumpkin patch, corn maze or hayride with little outlay of resources, wins with added income. The general public wins with an enjoyable and affordable family outing. Agriculture wins, Meyer explains, because these interactions help the general public "learn a little bit about agriculture and what's happening on American farms these days. Anytime we can help people appreciate what all goes into the food they pick off a shelf in the grocery store, I think we all benefit from that learning."



Above: School children get their hands dirty at the Pizza Farm.
Left Photo: An aerial view of the Pizza Farm in Madera, California.

Growing in the city

Agri-tourism isn't limited to just rural areas. In Minneapolis, the Minnesota Zoo recently opened its new \$4.3 million dollar Wells Fargo Family Farm exhibition. Zoo officials wanted to replace an aging petting zoo with a more state-of-the-art educational facility. So they decided to build an area that would serve to reconnect the state's population with its agricultural roots.

Using a traditional Minnesota diversified farm as a model, the new farm portrays agriculture of the past,

present and future. Visitors can get a close look at common livestock breeds, but they can also see the world's first bovine clone and several livestock breeds in danger of becoming extinct. Jim Streater, director of the zoo's biological programs, says the farm is successful because it's a fun place to roam around, and it helps educate people about the state's agricultural products and such issues as animal slaughter, biological diversity and biotechnology.

Perhaps the most visible urban agri-tourism exhibit is

Continued on page 6

Internship opportunity

Walt Disney World offers internships to college students with backgrounds or majors in agriculture, food crops, biology, horticulture, botany, biotechnology, biological engineering and related fields.

Interns give tours, maintain greenhouses and aquaculture facilities, assist in engineering designs and perform a variety of other tasks. Find out more at www.wdwccollegeprogram.com

Walt Disney World's "The Land at Epcot" near Orlando, Florida. Here, guests take a boat ride through greenhouses and an aquaculture facility. Dr. Mary Schon, manager of science communications for the project, says the exhibits "are a unique and entertaining way for our guests to discover where our food comes from ... and the importance of making environmentally sound decisions for how we use the land."



Inside a greenhouse at Disney's "The Land at Epcot."

In Chicago and L.A.

In October, the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry launched "The Farm," one of its newest permanent exhibits. In the 4,000 square foot space, guests can make their own cereal, view plants produced through biotechnology, witness the effects of weather on crops and climb aboard a new John Deere combine. Visitors can also find out what it's like to live on an Illinois farm.

In Los Angeles, Darren Schmall (the pizza farmer) is working with a community college that will soon be

opening its own pizza farm. When it's open, Schmall anticipates it will draw 100,000 visitors annually. "All of a sudden, you've got maybe 100,000 people that might have had a negative opinion or lack of understanding of agriculture. Now they realize farmers are pretty important because they grow pizza—and they grow blue jeans and they grow ice cream. And visitors are paying for the education. That's the beauty of it." ✱

Find more information on the agri-tourism industry at the University of California-Davis' Agriculture Tourism website: www.sfc.ucdavis.edu/agritourism/agritour.html

Don't live on a farm?

If you're interested in getting involved in agri-tourism but don't live on a farm or a rural area, there are plenty of places you can interact with the public in an agricultural setting. Here are some places you could develop an SAE or build a career: zoos, golf courses, museums with agricultural exhibits, public gardens and forest preserves. SAE opportunities could exist also in turf grass management, horticulture, wildlife management and environmental science.

Careers and opportunities in agri-tourism

As you've seen, agri-tourism comes in all shapes and sizes. The most common types include pumpkin patches, you-pick farms (where customers pick their own fruit or vegetables), Christmas tree farms, hayrides and petting zoos.

According to Gil Meyer at DuPont, agri-tourism is a great opportunity for a young person to set up a small business within a farm setting. As an FFA member, you are eligible to develop a supervised agricultural experience (SAE) related to agri-tourism that could fit into such proficiency award areas as agricultural communications, outdoor recreation forest management or diversified crop or livestock production. Eventually, you could make a career out of it—or at least use it as a source of added income.

If you're interested in starting an agri-tourism enterprise on your farm or land, here are some things to consider: Are you a people person? Will you have enough potential customers in your area? Can you handle the workload? Are you patient enough to stick with it until profits come? Do you have a business plan? If you can answer "yes" to these questions, you're on your way.



Kendra Butters (left) and Noelle Duncel.

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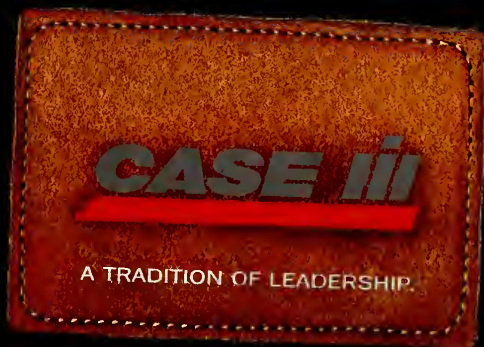
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the giant slayer

Rulon Gardner beats the unbeatable

Rulon Gardner is a very big, very strong man. At six feet, two inches, he towers over most people. At 285 pounds he's almost larger than life. It might come as a surprise, then, that Gardner, a competitor in the heavy-weight division of Greco-Roman wrestling, had the odds stacked against him in his Olympic gold-medal match.

His opponent, the Russian Aleksandr Karelin, was, by all accounts, a giant. Karelin had not lost a match since 1987.

In that time he had snagged nine World Championships, won three consecutive Olympic titles and lifted and thrown multiple 285-pound opponents—including Gardner in 1997—through the air and onto their backs. "I didn't think I had a shot," Gardner recalls. "This guy never lost. I knew the silver was guaranteed, but not the gold."

Still, Gardner wasn't about to give up without a fight. A 1989 graduate of Star Valley High School in Afton, Wyoming, and a four-year member of the Star

Valley FFA, he had spent much of his youth working long, hard hours on his family's dairy farm. He had wrestled his way to victory at the Wyoming State High School Championships his senior year, gone on to win three national championships, and had even beaten the four-time world and Olympic medalist Matt Ghaffari in the finals

of the 2000 U.S. Olympic Trials. He had earned his degree in physical education from the University of Nebraska. He knew where hard work could get him. And looking out on the Olympic mat, with Karelin ready to go, he knew the only way he stood a chance was if he worked like an ox.

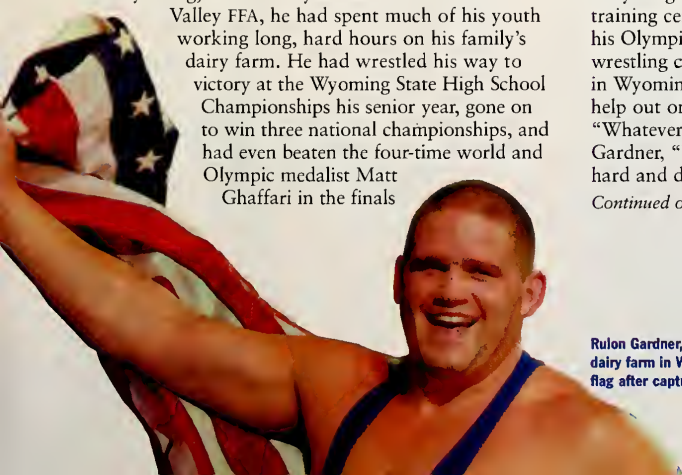
When the match began, nearly everyone watching in Sydney and on television around the world believed Karelin would waste little time in dispatching Gardner to claim his fourth gold medal. But in the end, it was Gardner who prevailed. When the whistle finally blew, Gardner held a 1-0 lead. The gold was his. He had defeated the Russian giant.

"The feeling was incredible," says Gardner, describing the moment the gold medal was draped around his neck.

"The blood, sweat and all that hard work had finally paid off."

Gardner hopes to be back in the Olympic ring in 2004, and to that end is now living in Colorado, staging clinics for young wrestlers and training at the U.S. Olympic training center in Colorado Springs. Eventually, when his Olympic days are over, he hopes to be a teacher and a wrestling coach, perhaps back in Wyoming where he can help out on the family farm. "Whatever happens," says Gardner, "I'm going to work hard and do my best." ★

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Rulon Gardner, who grew up on a dairy farm in Wyoming, waves the flag after capturing the gold.

Rulon's stats



Event: Greco-Roman wrestling

Height: 6'2"

Weight: 285 pounds

Born: August 16, 1971

Hometown: Afton, Wyoming

FFA Chapter: Star Valley

Graduated: 1989

Words of Advice: "Never give up on your dreams. Never underestimate the power of your ability."

learning to fly

Stacy Dragila is sitting on top of the world

Here's a suggestion: If you're afraid of heights, don't even think about trying to pole vault. And if you do take up pole-vaulting, pray you don't ever have to compete against Stacy Dragila.

Dragila, a 1990 graduate of Placer High School in Auburn, California, and ex-treasurer of the Placer FFA, is at the very top of her sport—literally. Last summer, in winning the U.S. Olympic Trials in Sacramento, California, she set a women's world pole-vaulting record when she cleared 15 feet, 2.25 inches. She's a four-time U.S. outdoor pole-vaulting champion. She's a four-time U.S. indoor pole-vaulting champion. She's the

current world champion. And, finally, thanks to the debut of women's pole-vaulting at the 2000 Summer Olympics, she's the first-ever woman Olympic champion.

Dragila didn't pick up a pole until she was 23, but she learned almost everything she needed to succeed in the sport while still in high school. She was an athlete during her years at Placer as a star hurdler on the track team. But she mastered her competitive spirit in the FFA, which had her riding horses, roping goats and showing steers and heifers. "I spent a lot of time judging and showing," recalls Dragila. "I had two or three different steers to look after. I had to be dedicated and motivated

to work hard to meet my goals." Feeding and working her cows, traveling to various fairs, and staying in top condition for the track team was not exactly easy. But Dragila was up to the challenge. "The days were long," she says, "but it was worth it."

The pole-vaulting chapter of Dragila's quite-active life began in 1993. It was then, as a student and track athlete at Idaho State University, that she first launched herself into the air using nothing but natural agility, a pole and a will to try something new. What happened next is obvious: The world of women's pole-vaulting changed forever.

With a world-class coach by her side, Dragila has quickly become the best women's pole-vaulter in history. Yet despite all her

success in the years leading up to the Olympics, it was there, in Sydney, that she had what she called "the jump of my life"—a 15-foot, 1-inch vault to capture the gold.

Today, back in Idaho with her pet Labrador retriever "Sydney," Dragila's back to work. Her mission: a spot on the 2004 Olympic Team. "I'm going to keep training, keep working hard and keep setting goals," says Dragila. "I've always liked a challenge." ✦

Continued on page 14



Stacy Dragila, who showed steers and heifers as an FFA member in California, is the world record holder in women's pole vaulting.

Stacy's stats

Event: Pole vault

Height: 5'7 1/2"

Weight: 140 pounds

Born: March 25, 1971

Hometown: Auburn, California

FFA Chapter: Placer

Graduated: 1990

Words of Advice: "Stay committed and you'll reach your goals. Anything is possible."



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ARE AFRAID OF COMMITMENT?

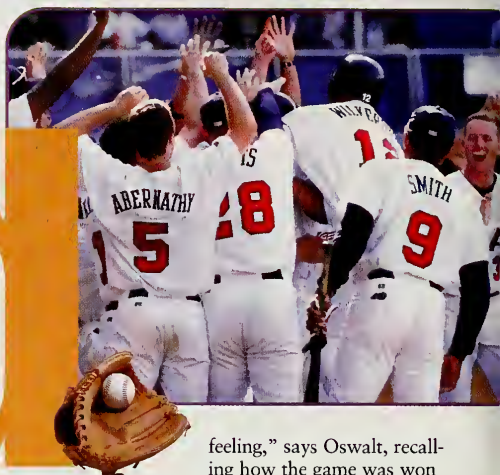


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from diamonds to gold



Roy Oswalt baffles Korean hitters on the way to gold

As far back as Roy Oswalt can remember, sports have been his thing. A standout athlete in high school, he played football, ran track and field and, of course, starred on the baseball team. Ultimately it was his pitching arm—a near-lethal weapon capable of hurling 97 mile-per-hour

fastballs with pinpoint accuracy—that took him to the top. “My coaches always told me to keep at, and I did,” says Oswalt.

The hard work paid off when, after high school, Oswalt enrolled at nearby Holmes Community College on a baseball scholarship. From there it’s been a wild ride. Drafted by the Houston Astros in 1997, he quickly established himself as a power in the professional leagues. He moved up through the ranks, and soon

found himself pitching for a double-A minor league team in Texas called the Round Rock Express, just a hop, skip and jump from the majors. In his first game with Round Rock, he struck out 15 batters and didn’t allow a single run.

The wins kept coming, and before long the U.S. Olympic Baseball Team was knocking on his door. “I wasn’t in the running at the beginning of the year,” recalls Oswalt. “I was surprised when I made the team. Really surprised. I had always wanted to play in the Olympics.”

Eventually Oswalt got over the shock and, in Australia, focused on the task at hand: winning the Olympic gold. He took to the mound twice during the tournament, both times against Korea. While he pitched Team USA to a solid victory in the first match, it was the second game—a 3-2 win in the semifinals that sent the team to the gold-medal round—that Oswalt will remember forever. “I can’t even begin to explain the

feeling,” says Oswalt, recalling how the game was won in the very last inning when a U.S. batter smashed a home-run. “It was incredible.”

The next game, against top-ranked Cuba, was for the gold, and Team USA was up to the challenge. Oswalt didn’t pitch in the game, but he did cheer his team on from the sidelines. Final score: Team USA four, Cuba zero. For the first time in history, a U.S. baseball squad had taken home Olympic gold. The players—the world, for that matter—were stunned. “It didn’t hit me until they started playing the American anthem,” recalls Oswalt. Then, of course, he knew: His Olympic dreams had finally come true. ✱



Roy's stats

Event: Baseball
Position: Pitcher
Height: 6'0"
Weight: 170 pounds
Born: August 19, 1977
Hometown: Weir, Mississippi
FFA Chapter: Weir
Graduated: 1995
Words of Advice: “If you have a talent, stick with it.”



Roy Oswalt, a former FFA member from Mississippi, won gold and then moved closer to the big leagues after being placed on the Houston Astros’ 40-man roster in November.



fastballs with pinpoint accuracy—that took him to the top. “My coaches always told me to keep at, and I did,” says Oswalt.

VIRGINIA STATE FFA NEWS

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studying Agricultural Education in Virginia.

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2000-2001 State FFA Officers

Secretary

Laura E. Grove
1566 Moffett Branch Rd.
Churchville, VA 24421
(540) 350-2557
valfaser2000@hotmail.com

Appalachian Vice President

Austin Wineberry
801 Camp Dickenson Ln.
Fries, VA 24330
(540) 744-3222
wineber@vt.edu

Central Vice President

Johanna Kocsis
4311 River Rd.
Mechanicville, VA 23116
(804) 779-3395
CentralVP@FFA@aol.com

Northern Vice President

Adam Wampler
14049 Kay Dr.
Timberville, VA 22850
(540) 896-8437
awampler@vt.edu

Southside Vice President

Renee Brochon
245 Green Pine Ln.
Charlotte C.H., VA 23923
(804) 248-9001
southernbelle_17@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Andy Wakeman
223 Frogtown Ln.
Edinburg, VA 22824
(540) 984-4666
ab_wakeman@yahoo.com

Reporter

Besky Mellett
293 Fraeborn Ln.
Elk Creek, VA 24326
(540) 655-4476
b_mellett@yahoo.com

Sentinel

Jonathan Fleishman
2000 Cave Ridge Rd.
Mt Jackson, VA 22842
(540) 477-3066
jffleishm@telus.net

Past President

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P.O. Box 17
Toms Brook, VA 22660
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Correspondence should be sent to: 268 Litton Reaves Hall
Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0343
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fannon@vt.edu

Hello Virginia FFA!

This year is going by so fast! I can't believe that it is the beginning of the new year already! We hope that all of you are having a good school year and that each and every one of you are having a wonderful year in FFA! I know that the State Officers are having an awesome year traveling around visiting so many great FFA chapters. The state officers have already visited over 50 chapters! The schools range from Park View Middle to Cedar Lee Middle, and Holston to Virginia Beach Tech Center! These are only to name a few. The chapters we visited have truly made us feel right at home. It's great to know that we all have made such wonderful friends and have awesome supporters in FFA. We truly hope that all of you have enjoyed the visits and activities that we bring to you. Just to leave you with a thought - We, the 2000-2001 Virginia FFA Officer Team wants you to "Dare to Believe" in Yourself, Team, and Purpose. Remember, "It is never easy reaching dreams....but those who reach walk in stardust"

Johanna Kocsis

Central Area Vice President

UPCOMING DATES

February 18-24 National FFA Week
February 22 or 23 State FFA Day at Capitol
March 17 State Parliamentary Procedure Event, Staunton
March 30-31 EDGE, MFE and ALD Conferences - Culpeper HS
May 12 State Forestry Event - King William HS
June 25-28 75th State FFA Convention, Virginia Tech

75TH ANNIVERSARY FFA BEAR AVAILABLE!

To celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Future Farmers of Virginia, the Virginia FFA Foundation is proud to present Henry C. Bear! This plush toy bear is primarily white with blue feet and hands and proudly displays the FFA emblem on his chest. He is appropriately named after Mr. Henry C. Groseclose, the Founding father of the FFA. What a neat reminder of present and past memories of FFA. Last year's Dream bear (shown in photo) nearly sold out in 3 days at the State FFA Convention. With a limited number available and each bear individually numbered, this is sure to be a prized collectable. If you are interested in inviting Henry C. Bear into your home, send \$10 per bear plus \$3 per bear - checks made payable to:

Virginia FFA Foundation
P.O. Box 702
New Market, VA 22844

If you have a volume order, please call Cathy Hughes, Executive Director, Virginia FFA Foundation at (540) 477-9620



Hello Virginia FFA!

I hope each of you have been blessed with a great year so far, and I wish nothing but more success for the remainder of the year. In November we, as state officers had the chance to represent the 10,000 Virginia FFA members at the 73rd National FFA Convention. One of our duties was to serve as Delegates and discuss national issues during the Delegate sessions. By doing so we helped to make decisions for the future of our organization. This was an awesome experience where we had the chance to learn more about how the organization works and how decisions get made.

No matter what you take part in at the National Convention, it is an experience that will last for a lifetime! The sight of 40,000 plus Blue and Gold jackets is breath taking, and the energy is just as amazing. I hope that each of you sometime in life, whether as a FFA member or as a

future friend of the organization, will have the opportunity to attend a National Convention.

Speaking of Conventions...our state convention is right around the corner. Consider this a personal invitation for you to attend. This is an exciting year for the state of Virginia. We will be celebrating our 75th Anniversary in a big way! We are planning to have an extra special Convention in order to celebrate this historical year. I hope to see each of you at convention in June! Remember you are the one who makes this organization so special! I believe in you!

God Bless and Best wishes!

Laura Grove

State Secretary

IS YOUR CHAPTER COOPERATING?

By: Eric Fitzgerald, State Agricultural Education Curriculum Specialist

Cooperation is the key to a successful chapter. Working with other student organizations, community groups and agencies is essential to good public relations for your FFA chapter. That's the belief that Patrick County High School FFA members have. The Agricultural Business classes at Patrick County High School are currently working with Fashion Design classes to construct display racks to be used in making displays. It all started when a Fashion Design teacher asked advisor, Mr. Roland Hall, if he could make a display stand for her class. Mr. Hall said yes and the order

came in for eight of the racks. "I didn't know that they wanted that many," said Mr. Hall. "I mentioned it to the class and they said that they would like to build them as a project. The students have really taken a lot of pride in it." The project required the students to cut some irregular shapes. FFA members Danny Lawson, Jeremy Collins and Jason Meadows came up with a solution to the problem. According to Lawson and Collins, "We just used a new chop saw blade as a guide and cut them with a jig saw." The display stands should be finished before the end of the semester.

Projects that sharpen FFA members' skills have always been an important part of the agricultural mechanics program. Community service and cooperation has been key to successful FFA chapters since the beginning of our co-curricular organization. By combining the two, the Agricultural Education program becomes an essential part of the school and community. So, the Patrick County FFA chapter leaves you with this question: "Is your chapter cooperating?"

The 2001 Virginia Summer Residential Governor's School for Agriculture at Virginia Tech Curriculum

The faculty, staff, and administration of Virginia Tech will offer a world-class Summer Residential Governor's School for Agriculture beginning in summer 2001. The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences will serve as the administrative unit and host College, with collaboration from and in cooperation with the College of Natural Resources, College of Human Resources and Education, and Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine.

Mission ~ The School's mission will be to provide hands-on, cutting-edge scientific and academic instruction to these future leaders and scientists to develop their understanding of the scope, opportunities, challenges, and both academic and scientific rigor of the broad fields of agriculture and natural resources.

Each student will take six core courses. Core Courses 1-4 will be discipline-based and will be taught by university faculty members. Core Course 5, Computer Applications, will be graduated to beginning, intermediate, and advanced entry skill levels. Core Course 6 will be a communications course designed to provide multimedia and presentation skills that will build the students' ability to prepare and deliver multimedia-based professional-quality presentations.

Each student will request a "Major." Students in each Major will make up a cohort, which will consist of approximately 20 students. A Governor's School Leader will be assigned to work full-time with the cohort of students in that major. Students in a given cohort will complete the same two specialized courses designed to provide major-specific instruction and to

prepare the students to work on major-specific projects.

Students in each cohort will be divided into cooperative work groups based on interest, to undertake an Independent Group Project (IGP). The IGPs will be developed by faculty members in each of the academic major areas to expand on and provide application in the content of the major. Each cooperative work group will be mentored by a faculty member who developed the respective IGP. The Governor's School Leader for the respective cohort will provide direct assistance and continuous mentoring for the work groups/IGPs for his or her cohort. The IGPs will provide the basis for the Symposium and Poster Session on the last full day of the School, to which high school teachers and parents will be invited.



While touring the National FFA Center, Northern Are Vice President Adam Wampler, got the chance to sit in the chair of the National FFA Advisor, Dr. Larry Case.



Charles Simmons from Central HS is being congratulated as a national finalist in the Wildlife Management Placement Proficiency Award.



Becky Mellott enjoys the Career Show at the national convention.



Seventy five members and advisors met at the Rockbridge County Armory for a BARC Federation leadership training day with four of the State FFA officers. The advisors served grilled hamburgers with all the fixins' for the group.



Under the watchful eye of Advisor, Roland Hall, FFA members Jeremy Collins, Danny Lawson and Jason Meadows construct a display for the Fashion Design class at Patrick County High School.



The James Wood Middle FFA Chapter sent four representatives to the National FFA Convention. While there they competed in the Invitational FFA Knowledge Contest. They placed 11th in the nation. Members attending were Kyle Clevenger, Lindsey Willett, Amanda Sirbaugh and Shiel Jhaveri.

Spotlight Pics...

The FFA has always been a part of my life. At the age of 5, I wasn't old enough to be a member of the FFA, but my father, brother, and sister all showed me the organization's possibilities. When supporting my siblings at their banquets, I dressed up in my official dress, which consisted of a size 6 official FFA jacket. Even though I didn't understand the purpose and meaning of FFA at that age, I did understand the jacket's power of getting someone's attention. Not mentioning that all the older girls thought I was just the cutest when I wore it. Today as President of the James Wood FFA Chapter in Winchester, Virginia, I have benefited greatly from all my FFA experiences (including those of my younger days). FFA has enhanced my abilities to speak to people, allowed me to lead others, and improved my self-esteem. All of these qualities have made me the person I am today thanks to the FFA.

Written By: Tim Sutphin



School Pride

Horticulture and Introduction to Agriculture students are working on landscaping the main school sign at Turner Ashby High School. The plan is to install more permanent landscape materials that will require less maintenance, such as shrubbery and ornamental trees. Additionally, a huge T.A. symbol will be planted in dark purple and white winter pansies. The students will be required to identify the kinds of plants used and method for planting. "We had a local landscaping company,



Spread By Hand, from Harrisonburg, sketch a drawing and give us an estimate so the students could get some experience planting the shrubs." The principal, Delmer Botkin, and our school beautification committee will be helping to pay for the project along with donations from the different school clubs. The mulch is being donated by Spread By Hand Landscaping and they are generously giving us a break on the plant material. Of course, dedicated, hard working students will provide the labor and keep up the area. "This is a great activity for the



students because they can return after they graduate and tell others they helped landscape that sign and take more pride in it," says horticulture/agriculture teacher, Mrs. Terry Lam. Currently, we are ordering a landscaping software package from a Tech Prep grant Mrs. Lam recently won to be able to design some of the landscape areas ourselves. Their plan was to have everything completed by the holidays.

Randolph-Henry FFA Students Win National Contest

Kristen Duffer and Teri Moorefield represented the state of Virginia at the National Junior Horticulture Association Convention held in Washington D.C. November 3-7. Kristen and Teri won the State Fair Horticulture Demonstration Contest in September which earned them the right to represent the state in the National Competition. The contest required the girls to present a 10-12 minute oral presentation that demon-



strated the steps required to complete a project. Kristen and Teri demonstrated the construction of a cornucopia (horn of plenty) arrangement suitable for a dining room table. They used various fruits and vegetables along with gourds and dried plant materials. After giving their demonstration the judges were allowed to ask five minutes of questions. The girls competed against demonstrations from all areas of the United States and were named the

Grand National Champions. They each received a plaque along with a cash prize. They were coached by Miss Melessa Harlvey.

While in attendance at the convention, the girls took a night tour of Washington D.C. and viewed the Capitol from the Potomac River on a dinner cruise. They also visited the National Arboretum as well as Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania. The National Junior Horticulture Association is comprised of FFA and 4-H members from all 50 states that have an interest in horticulture. The association strives to provide horticulturally based contests and activities that enable students to broaden their knowledge of horticulture.

CENTRAL FFA ACTIVITIES

By: Many George, Central FFA

Over the past several months the Central FFA Chapter has been quite active. Some of our recent activities are Fall Festivities Meeting, students attended Board of Supervisors' meeting, junior officers were elected, and Christmas boxes for Kosovo were constructed.

On October 10, 2000 the senior officers of the Central FFA Chapter selected the Junior Chapter Officers. That same day, 20 members of the chapter attended the Board of Supervisors

meeting and a presentation summarizing the chapter's accomplishments was given. The Board of Supervisors then unanimously passed a resolution recognizing all FFA members and chapters in Shenandoah County.

On October 28, the Central FFA Chapter held their Fall Festivity meeting. Among those in attendance were the State Sentinel and State Treasurer, Jonathan Heishman and Andy Wakeman. The state officers gave a presentation emphasizing their motto "Dare to

Believe". Following the meeting, members participated in numerous fall activities, such as pumpkin carving, bobbing for apples, pie eating contest, and others.

Throughout the month of November the chapter officers collected items for children in Kosovo. The Central FFA Chapter and the Peter Muhlenberg Middle School combined to collect 38 boxes to be sent to children in Kosovo.

73rd National FFA Convention •

Congratulations to everyone that either participated in an event or was recognized for an achievement at the convention. We are very proud of you!

Career Development Events (listed below) is the team rating or ranking. If there was an individual rating it is indicated in parenthesis beside the individual's name)

AGRISCIENCE FAIR - ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Division III - 1st place
Bobby Winschel and Amber Dave - Signal Knob MS. Coach Mr. Jim Highman

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES
4th Place - Gold Team
Turner Ashby - Amanda Lambert, Julia Gardner, Kathleen Sheap, Michaela Smith, Emily Rainey and Coach Ms. Mendy Beckman

AGRICULTURAL MECHANICS
Silver Team
Strasburg HS - Andrew Deci (Silver), Joel Howard (Silver), Aaron Collegeman (Silver), and Coach Mr. Ron Roller

AGRICULTURAL SALES
6th place; Gold Team
Fort Defiance - Caitlyn McNulty (Gold - 4th High Individual), Aaron Shiflett (Gold), Britany Stansberry (Silver), Jeremy Arey (Silver), and Coach Mr. Andy Seibel

CREEK SPEAKING
Laurel Alexander - Dinwiddie HS (Bronze). Coach Ms. Cindy Blaha

DAIRY CATTLE

11th place; Gold Team
Sherando - Sarah Orndorff (Gold), Billy Manuel (Gold), Justin Boyce (Silver), Laura Larrick (Silver), and Coach Mrs. Christina Whitacre

DAIRY FOODS

Bronze Team
Spotswood - Eric Paulson (Silver), Josh Joseph (Silver), Elizabeth Dofflemyer (Bronze), Raymond Michael (Bronze), and coach Mr. Wayne Cupp

DAIRY SHOWMANSHIP

Anthony Rhodes, Turner Ashby
3rd high individual (Gold)
Coach Mrs. Terry Lam
Angela Hinton - Riverheads (Silver), Coach Mr. Gene McIlwee

ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES

8th place, Gold Team
Central HS - Jarris Sperry (Gold), Bradley Orndorff (Silver), Andy Wakeman (Silver), Nathan Rutherford (Bronze), and Coach Mr. George Bowers

EXTEMPORANEOUS PUBLIC SPEAKING

Allen Jackson - Magna Vista HS (Bronze). Coach Mr. Henry Foster

FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Silver Team
Nelson County HS - Joe Landry (Gold), Ed McCann, Jr. (Silver), Chris Pearson (Silver), and coach Mr. Ed McCann

FLORICULTURE

7th place, Gold Team
John S. Battle - Brittany Ketron (3rd High Individual - Gold), Elizabeth Jordan (Silver), Lawrence Cox (Silver), and coach Mr. Phil McCroskey

FOOD SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

7th place, Silver Team
Buffalo Gap - Elizabeth Fuller (Silver), James Ramsey (Silver), Hock Jones (Silver), Tina Wilson (Bronze), and coach Mrs. Shirley Kaufman

FORESTRY

Silver Team
Carroll Co. HS - Matthew Spears (Gold), Aaron Horton (Gold), Adam Mount (Silver), Travis Akers (Silver), and Coach Mr. Gary Cockram

HORSE

Bronze Team
Randolph-Henry - Meredith Pack (Silver), Jean Tams (Bronze), Bethanne Ridgeway (Bronze), and Coach Mr. George Jones

LIVESTOCK

14th place; Gold Team
Rockbridge Co. HS - Matthew Spencer (Silver), Zack Hileman (8th High Individual, Gold), Drew Mackey (Silver), Jennifer Showalter (Silver), and Coach Ms. Amy Trout

MARKETING PLAN PROJECT

4th place Gold Team
Fort Defiance - Lee Roadcap, Jessica Auville, Wendy Slusher, and Coach Mr. Andy Seibel

MEATS EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

Silver Team
Central HS - Nicole Ross (Silver), Mark Brill (Silver), Derek Ritenour (Silver), Renee Sine (Silver), and coach Mrs. Sherry Heishman

NURSERY AND LANDSCAPE

8th place; Gold Team
Laurel Park - Lane Toler (9th High Individual - Gold), Leslie Earles (Gold), Katrina Daniel (Silver), and Coach Mrs. Deborah Barker

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Silver Team
Turner Ashby - Lindsay Brubaker, Jordan Liskey, Tiffany Reeves, Tiara Saunfley, Margaret Kyger, Jacklyn Varela, and coach Mr. Brian Crickenberger

POULTRY

Silver Team
Spotswood - Adam Bowman (Silver), Caleb Davis (Silver), Chris Threewitts (Bronze), Lee Threewitts (Bronze), and Coach Mr. Wayne Cupp

PREPARED PUBLIC SPEAKING

Casey Hale - Randolph Henry (Silver). Coach Mr. George Jones

Chapter Awards Program
These are the chapters that received gold ratings on the state level. At the national level they are rated with either a 3, 2 or 1 star rating with 3 stars being the highest rating.

Virginia FFA Association Results

Central HS - 3 Stars
 Laurel Park - 3 Stars
 Stonewall Jackson HS - 3 Stars
 Turner Ashby - 3 Stars
 Culpeper Co. HS - 3 Stars
 Strasburg - 3 Stars
 Dinwiddie - 2 Stars
 James Wood HS - 2 Stars
 Signal Knob MS - 2 Stars
 Fort Defiance - 2 Stars
 King William - 2 Stars
 Fauquier - 2 Stars
 Northumberland - 2 Stars
 Sherando - 2 Stars
 Stewart MS - 2 Stars
 Beverley Manor MS - 2 Stars

PROFICIENCY AWARDS

Agricultural Communications - Jessica Auville, Fort Defiance - Silver
 Agricultural Mechanical Technical Systems - Placement
 Kenneth Campbell, Buffalo Gap - Silver
 Agricultural Processing - Joseph Wilkes Harris, Fort Defiance - Silver
 Agricultural Sales and/or Service - Doug Britt, Buffalo Gap - Silver
 Beef Production - Entrepreneurship - Wes Marshall, Fort Defiance - Silver
 Beef Production - Placement - Mindy McCroskey, John S. Battle - Bronze
 Cereal Grain Production - Jarrett Wayne Motley, Gretna HS - Bronze
 Dairy Production - Entrepreneurship - Bridget Sine, Central HS - Bronze
 Dairy Production - Placement - Randy Trent, Appomattox - Silver

Diversified Crop Production - Entrepreneurship - Chris Haskins, Gretna HS - Bronze
 Diversified Crop Production - Placement - Donald Lee Smith, Fort Defiance - Gold
 Diversified Livestock Production - Entrepreneurship - Cassie Ann Reed, Appomattox - Silver
 Diversified Livestock Production - Placement - Matthew Lester Switzer, Turner Ashby - Bronze
 Environmental Science - Claire Foster, Turner Ashby - Silver
 Equine Science - Entrepreneurship - Joseph Hite, Bluestone HS - Bronze
 Equine Science - Placement - Natasha Catherine Shantz, Turner Ashby - Bronze
 Fiber Crop Production - James R. Jones, Walter S. Newman - Gold
 Floriculture - Elizabeth Janelle Jordan, John S. Battle - Silver
 Forest Management - Bradley Orndorff, Central HS - Bronze
 Forage Production - Adam Hostetler, Fort Defiance - Silver
 Food Science & Technology - Casey Rogers, Northumberland - Bronze
 Fruit and/or Vegetable Production - Kevin Rudolph, King William - Gold
 Home and/or Community Development - Matthew Spears, Carroll Co. - Silver
 Horticulture - Mylinh Nguyen, Laurel Park - Silver
 Landscape Management - Brandon Terry, Atlee - Bronze

Nursery Operations - Lisa Talley Atlee - Bronze
 Oil Crop Production - Placement - Byron Phillips, Fort Defiance - Silver
 Outdoor Recreation - Beth Nicole Blackwell, Fort Defiance - Silver
 Poultry Production - Gabriel Michael Graham, Christiansburg - Bronze
 Sheep Production - Rosalea Riley, Buffalo Gap - Gold
 Small Animal Care - Heather Dawn Mullins, Christiansburg - Silver
 Soil and Water Management - Greg Jones, Northumberland - Silver
 Specialty Animal Production - Entrepreneurship - Daniel Lanier, Gretna HS - Silver
 Specialty Animal Production - Placement - Travares Lamar Vessels, King William - Silver
 Specialty Crop Production - Jamie Turner, Dinwiddie - Silver
 Swine Production - Entrepreneurship - Emily Curry, Buffalo Gap - Silver
 Swine Production - Placement - Lynn Eric Shaver, Fort Defiance - Silver
 Turf Grass Management - Jared Andrew Fisher, George Wythe - Silver
 Wildlife Management - Entrepreneurship - Mark Brill, Central HS - Silver
 Wildlife Management - Placement - Charles Lewis Simmons, Central HS - National Finalist (photo 3)
 H.O. Sargent Award National Finalist - Dajohn Washington, King William HS

National Officer Candidate - Johnny Davis, Atlee

AMERICAN DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Rebecca Begoon - Spotswood
 Beth Nicole Blackwell - Fort Defiance
 Doug Britt - Buffalo Gap
 Joshua William Coceano - Turner Ashby
 Andrew Ray Cullip, Jr. - Pulaski
 Jeremy Driver - Turner Ashby
 Leslie Ellen Funkhouser - Strasburg
 Ashley Gutshall - Fort Defiance
 George Wade Hawkins III - Central HS
 Michael Helsley - Central HS
 Matthew Hickey - Buffalo Gap
 Kenneth Hyden, Jr. - Fort Defiance
 Mark Daniel Kipps - Stonewall Jackson
 Johanna Marie Kocsis - Atlee
 Wes Marshall - Fort Defiance
 Gloria Beth Rhodes - Turner Ashby
 Scott Talley - Buffalo Gap
 Christy Marie Walther - Turner Ashby
 Nick Yopp - Christiansburg

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Mr. Larkin Phillips, Associate Director Technical Education, Hanover County Public Schools

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faces of the 73rd national ffa con



Danny Machado: National Proficiency Award Winner

National Proficiency Award Winner

On Thursday of the 2000 National FFA Convention, in a huge convention hall in downtown Louisville, over 150 national proficiency award finalists gathered for a luncheon with their FFA advisors and the proficiency award judges and sponsors.

Danny Machado, a finalist in dairy production-placement hardly touched the food on his plate—not even dessert. He was too nervous, knowing that immediately following the meal he would have to face the judges behind closed doors.

He had spent the night before in his hotel room studying for the questions the judges might throw his way—questions that might cover such topics as BST (a product used to increase the efficiency of milk production in dairy cows), the top dairy sires, dairy feeds and nutrition.

For Danny, who attends Modesto Community College near his home in Snelling, California, winning this award wasn't about the cash prize or the plaque. It was about his pride in dairy farming, a career he's already living.

Back home, he has full-time duties both on the farm and at school. He has to stretch his days by waking at 5 a.m. each morning. By 7:30 p.m., he can finally

relax and recharge for the following morning, when it all starts again.

Unlike most of his friends back home, Danny has pretty much known he's wanted to be a farmer for as long as he can remember. Living on his family's 2,000-cow dairy operation, Danny learned early on about sacrifice. He gave up high school football so he could work on the farm. His social life is limited by the long hours it takes to help keep the operation running smoothly.

On Saturday, Danny took the main convention stage with the other three finalists. "When I was on stage, I couldn't stop shaking," Danny says. "My knees were just rattling." As his name filled the hall, Danny breathed a huge sigh of relief and ran across the stage to accept the award.

Danny says he couldn't have done it without the support of his FFA advisor, Mike Morales, and his parents, Joe and Maria Machado.

FFA members pursuing the Dairy Production proficiency award use the best

Some of the people who made
convention 2000 worth remembering

Convention

management practices available to efficiently produce and market dairy cattle and dairy products. Four finalists are chosen to compete at the national level. The finalists are interviewed by the judges and have their record books inspected. The event is sponsored by DeLaval, Inc. and Pharmacia & Upjohn Animal Health as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

they arrived in Kentucky, they got some much-needed sleep, then spent much of the next two days locked in a hotel room, quizzing each other and taking practice tests.

Matthew, who, at 16, is the team's youngest member, says preparing is an ongoing effort—and it's not an easy one. He says they put in a lot of extra hours after school and whenever they could find time.

When Friday morning at the convention came around, Jessica, Matthew, Dustin and Jayme felt they had done their best to prepare for the event. Even though they had won at district, area and state competitions, Jessica says past successes don't guarantee future results: "Our state competition is a lot different from the national competition, so there's a lot of additional preparing and learning before we can come and be competitive here."

In the course of the morning, each of the 120-plus individuals in the competition endured challenging

group problems, took an examination and, with clipboards and pencils in hand, worked through several hands-on stations, where they evaluated chicken and turkey carcasses, breaded chicken patties, eggs and more.

At a breakfast for all participants the next morning, the results were announced.

In the overall individual competition, all four East Central FFA Chapter members placed in the top five. Jayme took first, followed by Lacy Hobbs from Anderson, Missouri. Matthew, Jessica and Dustin rounded out the top five. Before the team results were announced, it was clear the Texas team had first place.

Continued

National Career Development Winner

On Friday morning, 33 of the best FFA poultry teams from around the nation gathered in the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center's West Pavilion to test their skills and knowledge.

Among them, a team that had arrived at the Louisville International Airport at two o'clock Wednesday morning. Jessica Geistweidt, Matthew Luensmann, Dustin Marsh and Jayme Mair started their journey in their hometown of San Antonio, Texas. After



San Antonio FFA Chapter: National Career Development Event Winner

Continued on page 19

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The 2000-2001

National FFA Officer team



Jennifer Edwards, Alabama
national secretary



Angela Browning, California
national western region vice president



Trent McKnight, Texas
national president



Doug Kueker, Missouri
national central region vice president



Ronnie Simmons, Florida
national southern region vice president



Katy Poth, Ohio
national eastern region vice president

Jimmy LeFils, Florida fruit and/or vegetable production; Curtis Jue, Jr., Calif. home and/or community development; John Dyehouse, Ky. horticulture; Deanna Thies, Mo. landscape management; Ezra Zoschke, Ohio, nursery operations; Leigh Land, N.Y. oil crop production (entrepreneurship); Andrew Stricklen, Ohio oil crop production; fiber crop production; Jeremy McFerrin, Texas horticulture; Adams Ferris, Texas food science and technology; Kyle Wilson, Ohio forage production; Matthew Stokes, Mo. forest management; Tomi, small animal care; Larry Brauch, Ohio soil and water management; N. Elizabeth Webb, Ga. specialty animal production (placement); David Bergthold, Calif. specialty animal production (entrepreneurship); Regi Hall, Calif. specialty crop production; Joel Mecklenburg, Ill. swine production (entrepreneurship); Shawn Spornholt, Iowa swine production (placement); the late David Skiles, Ind. turf grass management; Daniel Drons, Wis. wildlife management (entrepreneurship); Cody Baker, Wis. wildlife management (entrepreneurship); Amanda Boyer, Wis. (witnesses continued on page 20)

TYLER ENGLAND

HIGHWAYS &
DANCE HALLS

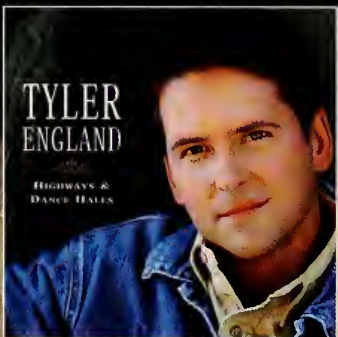


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H.O. Sargent award for diversity (FFA member): Jennifer Kidd, N.C. H.O. Sargent award for Cotton Center FFA, Texas; Greenwood FFA, Wisconsin. John Deere Credit's classic John Deere 4020 tractor giveaway winner: Jimmy Schueller, Ill.; Quality Farm & Country's "Farmers Make America Great" essay contest winner: Tami Shannon, Ohio

By Kim Berndtson

Racing the clock

FFA members team up at the career show

At the FFA National Agricultural Career Show, FFA members filled bags with literature, discussed career opportunities, tried their hands at rock climbing, sat in the latest trucks and tractors and sent e-mail messages home. Above the din of conversation, you could hear the distinct whir of an air wrench. The noise became louder and louder as you approached the Goodyear booth. Here, FFA members and advisors gathered to cheer on participants in the 2000 Pit Crew Challenge.



The interactive event pitted five-member teams in a race against time to change two tires on a retired NASCAR racecar. "The key—to work together," says Goodyear spokes-person Rob Whitehouse, "and to keep your hand on the trigger of the air gun all the time."

Lewie Villines, advisor at the Flippin FFA Chapter in Arkansas, stood on the sidelines readying his team as they donned safety glasses, protective kneepads and gloves. As they waited in the wings, Villines imparted some last minute wisdom to his crew: "Go fast and win!"

Villines liked the event because it taught his students the value of teamwork. "It's also a way to teach them how to lose gracefully," he says. The Flippin crew finished in 19.33 seconds. While they moved faster than most teams, they couldn't

top the 13.52-second record set earlier in the day. Nor could it surpass the average 16 seconds it takes a professional NASCAR pit crew to change four tires, refuel a car and rehydrate a driver.

The Charles City, Iowa, team found it impossible to beat the lightning-quick times already on the board. Tanner Wegner and his fellow chapter members finished in 20.16 seconds. "The experience really showed us how we have to work together to accomplish a goal," Wegner says.

In some cases, when a chapter didn't have five members present, they would join forces with members from other chapters. In one case, members from Indiana and South Carolina (pictured above) teamed up and finished in under 18 seconds—at that point, a record time. ★

Individual winners: Mark Scherer, Ill.; Travis Gottschalk, Minn.; Curt Frazee, Iowa. Chapter winners: Abernathy FFA, Texas;

diversity (non-FFA members): Gonzalez Martin, Ind.; Mamie Oatis, Fla.; Alvin Larkie, Texas. Other winners: Chevrolet's FFA tractor restoration competition. Individual winners: Mark Scherer, Ill.; Travis Gottschalk, Minn.; Curt Frazee, Iowa. Chapter winners: Abernathy FFA, Texas;

It's all you need...

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Macintosh:
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what's not

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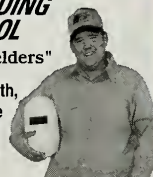
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hot	short	not
after school activity	hair style for males	long
hot	long	not
homework	hair style for females	short
hot	pizza	not
foreign language class	school lunch food item	chicken patty
hot	spanish	not
science	math	not
non-agriculture class	yahoo.com	mtv.com
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By Steve Dinnen

Color, make, model. Coupe or SUV. These all seem difficult decisions when it comes to buying an automobile. But once the vehicle is chosen comes the really hard part—paying for it.

Next to college, a car is the costliest purchase most young people will ever make. A new subcompact will cost \$11-12,000, while pickup trucks start in that range and quickly climb. Even a used car or truck can set you back \$5,000 or more.

Unless you have that much money in the bank, you'll need a loan. Therein lies another problem, since you need to be 18 or even 21 years old, depending on where you live, to enter a

purchase contract for a car. Even then, the going can get rough, because the younger you are, the less likely it is you'll have a credit record that a lender will approve without a parent or co-signer involved.

"If I'm a teenager, I'm going to qualify for a high interest rate because I have no credit record," says Kathy Wessel, finance manager at Inskeep Ford, in Greenfield, Indiana.

Stability is the key

Yes, a co-signer often is needed. But young people who have worked, or have steadily deposited money into savings accounts, can document a credit history that lenders like to see.



"Basically, all we look for is stability," says Tom Mays, a marketing manager at General Motors Acceptance Corp. (the lending arm of GM). "Can they demonstrate a track record of payments?"

If so, Mays says young buyers can look for special rate programs that dealers often offer on select vehicles. Finding 1.9 percent or 3.9 percent interest rates is not uncommon these days as

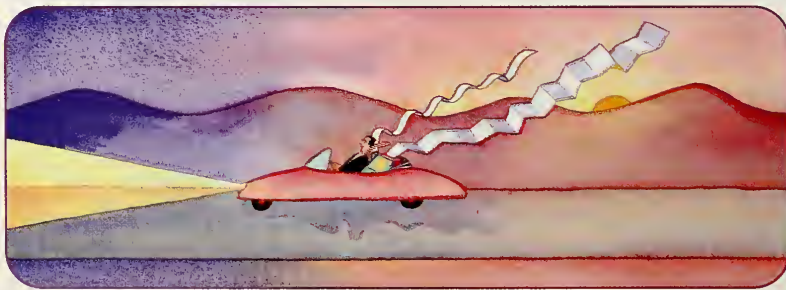
automobile manufacturers fight for market share. On a \$10,000 car repaid over 48 months, the difference between 3.9 percent and 8 percent interest amounts to \$912.

Automakers also offer "combo" programs, says Mays, which involve a rebate of \$500 to \$1,500 plus a lowered interest rate of maybe 4.9 percent.

Other options

Wessel says that if a buyer has no credit history, she will consider a lease. When the driver turns in the car at the end of the 24- or 36-month lease period, he has by then established a credit record and then "he can buy pretty much anything he wants to."

Sometimes area banks will have promotional loans for first-time or young car buyers. And credit unions, which are owned by their members, typically charge lower interest rates. That doesn't make getting credit any easier, just more affordable. ★



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A roadmap to the Internet

Search Here!

GO!

10 websites you can use

Useful and interesting websites abound on the Internet. The problem is finding them. Here's a list of some of the more useful—and free—sites we've come across. Get on the Web and give them a whirl.

Ever wanted to know what your home looks like from above? At www.terraser.com, you just type in your latitude and longitude or the name of your town or city. Up pops a U.S. Geological Survey satellite image of the area. You can zoom in to find precise locations. You can also view topographical maps of your area.

Are you a history buff? The Library of Congress website (www.loc.gov) contains hundreds of pages of documents, photographs and audio files from America's rich history.

You'll find online collections on agriculture, performing arts, sports and much more. The site recently featured special exhibitions on Thomas Jefferson and *The Wizard of Oz*.

Need to know the weather in your area? You can turn on the TV to the Weather Channel and hope the forecast will be shown in the next 20 minutes, or you can just log on to their website (www.weather.com). Here, you just type in your zip code for a local forecast.

Wondering if George Strait, Britney Spears or Kid Rock will be performing nearby? Get the latest tour information on your favorite singers and bands at www.pollstar.com, the site of Pollstar, a magazine that caters to music industry professionals.

Need some help translating a phrase or passage from a different language? At www.freetranslation.com, you can translate English to Spanish, German, Portuguese, Norwegian, Italian and French. You can also translate Spanish, French and German to English.

Want to stay on top of agricultural news, trends, discussion and information? Try Agriculture Online (www.agriculture.com), a site devoted to the business of agriculture. You'll find crop prices from around the world and new products entering the market.

Looking for that long-lost friend from summer camp a few years ago? Begin the search at www.switchboard.com, a nationwide online telephone and address directory. Once you find that person's address, you can map it and get directions at www.mapblast.com.

Oregon State University maintains a website called Food Resource (osu.orst.edu/food-resource/index.html).

It's a comprehensive site with facts and reports related to food. There's lots of basic information on foods, ingredients and nutrition, plus loads of links to related sites.

Have you ever wanted to write to your representative in Congress but didn't know how to go about it? Then visit SpeakOut (www.speak-out.com), a site devoted to connecting citizens to the people they elect. With a simple search, you can obtain contact information for all the lawmakers who represent you. The site also has online polls, forums and news. ★

If you have favorite websites, we want to know about them, too. Drop us an e-mail at egaukel@mindspring.com

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Last Laff

Q: What do you call two medical doctors?

A: Paramedics (pair of medics).

Becky Dukart

Manning, North Dakota

Q: What violation do basketball players commit on a bus?

A: Traveling.

Katie Linnebur

Fall River, Kansas

Q: What kind of music do ghosts listen to?

A: Booggrass.

Toni Munford

Abbeville, Georgia

Q: Where do computers go on vacation?

A: The Big Apple.

Joe Nunly

Athens, Tennessee

Q: Why does a chicken coop have two doors?

A: If it had four doors, it would be a chicken sedan.

Jessica Smith

Wingate, North Carolina

Q: What did the strawberry say to the banana?

A: Didn't I see you on Sunday(sundae)?

Jerry Downen

Altus, Oklahoma

Q: Why do scuba divers flip backwards?

A: If they went forward, they'd fall in the boat.

Paulette Taber

Port Orange, Florida

Q: What do birds do when they are losing battle?

A: Re-tweet.

Salinas High FFA

Salinas, California

Q: Why did the kid take a ladder to school?

A: To see what high school was like.

Nancy Jimenez

Patterson, California

Q: What is a mouse's favorite game?

A: Hide and squeak.

Jannetta Houghton

Carlsbad, New Mexico

Q: What's the longest word in the English language?

A: Smiles. There's a mile between each S.

Antonio DeRamces

Prattville, Alabama

FFA New Horizons will pay \$5 for each joke selected for Last Laff. In case we receive more than one of the same joke, payment will be for the first one received. Contributions cannot be acknowledged or returned.

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